



SUNDERLAND PORT HEALTH
AUTHORITY.

1939.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer
of Health.





PORT OF SUNDERLAND.

1939.

Annual Report

PRESENTED TO THE

Port Health Authority

BY

A. STUART HEBBLETHWAITE,

M.C., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health for the Port and Borough of Sunderland.

Sunderland Port Health Authority.

COMMITTEE:

Councillor J. Young, J.P., Chairman.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
(Councillor Myers Wayman, O.B.E., J.P.).

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OFFICERS.

CLERK:

G. S. McIntire, B.A., LL.B.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

A. Stuart Hebblethwaite, M.C., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

Eustace Thorp, O.B.E., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

PORT HEALTH INSPECTOR:

E. Cooper, Cert. R.S.I.

ASSISTANT INSPECTOR:

C. Pickering, Cert. R.S.I.

OFFICIAL RAT CATCHER:

B. M. Bell.

Meetings:—Monthly, on the Wednesday in the second week
preceding that in which the Council meets, at 2-45 p.m.

Offices of Medical Officer of Health } Athenæum Buildings,
and Port Health Inspector. } 27, Fawcett Street.

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SUNDERLAND

PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1939.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
COUNTY BOROUGH OF SUNDERLAND ACTING AS THE
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY OF THE PORT OF SUNDER-
LAND.

This Report is in an abbreviated form compared with those of previous years, in accordance with the wishes of the Ministry of Health as outlined in their Circular No. 1937; permanent arrangements which have been fully presented in previous Annual Reports have been omitted if they have remained unaltered, and certain tables have been either left out altogether or curtailed.

During the year 5 cases of infectious disease, viz., Pneumonia 3, Malaria 1, Measles 1, were found to exist on vessels entering the Port. No case of infectious disease spread from the Port to the Borough.

Work under Articles 19-21 (Deratisation of Ships) has resulted in 112 Certificates for "Deratisation" or Deratisation "Exemption" being issued, compared with 124 issued last year.

During the year your Port Medical Officer was called out and visited 15 ships at the Docks and River,

During the past year, with the consent of the Borough Council, I was appointed Port Anti-Gas Officer to the River Wear Commissioners' Air Raid Precautions scheme for Docks, Wharves, Quays and Waterside Warehouses. This scheme, which is nearing completion, includes two fully equipped first aid posts. The personnel for manning the scheme is supplied from the officials and workmen employed by the River Wear Commissioners.

Certain duties are directly concerned with the Port Health Authority, including (1) Provision to be made for the boarding of vessels, whether contaminated or not, immediately on arrival by the Port Medical Officer of Health, if they have on board cases of infectious sickness or of serious illness or accident urgently requiring treatment on shore or if they have come from an infected port; (2) The supervision of disembarkation and disposal of persons who have become casualties by reason of a gas attack on a ship entering or lying in port; (3) An arrangement with the Dock Authority to provide a suitable site on shore for the reception of contaminated food-stuffs, whether in ships or on shore.

The work of the Port Health Inspectors has been maintained at a very high standard of efficiency.

I wish to record my thanks for the valuable assistance given by H.M. Collector of Customs and his staff, also the Officials of the River Wear Commissioners, Board of Trade Surveyors, Pilots and Shipping Agents who have so willingly co-operated with the Port Health Authority.

A. STUART HEBBLETHWAITE,

Port Medical Officer of Health.

Health Office,
Athenæum Buildings,
27, Fawcett Street,
Sunderland,
March, 1940.

TABLE A.

I. Amount of Shipping entering the Port Health District
during the year 1939.

	Number Inspected		Number Reported to be Defect'Ve	Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of Vessels re- ported as having, or having had, dur- ing the voyage in- fectious disease on Board.
	By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Port Health Inspector			
Total Foreign	13	568	41	39	3
Total Coastwise ...	2	1711	80	80	4
Total Foreign and Coastwise ...	15	2279	121	119	7

INSPECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORTS.

Date of Report, 1939.	1 Total Ships examined.	Sanitary Condition.		Written Notices.	5 Verbal Notices	6 Total Verbal and Written Notices.
		2 Good.	3 Bad.			
January 26th ...	133	128	5	1	4	5
February 23rd ...	193	182	11	1	10	11
March 30th ...	240	228	12	0	12	12
April 27th ...	187	180	7	0	7	7
June 1st ...	195	178	17	2	15	17
June 29th ...	239	226	13	0	13	13
July 27th ...	222	208	14	0	14	14
August 31st ...	195	187	8	0	8	8
September 27th ...	145	137	8	0	8	8
October 25th ...	158	151	7	0	7	7
November 29th ...	209	202	7	0	7	7
December 31st ...	163	151	12	0	12	12
Totals in 1939 ..	2279	2158	121	4	117	121

III. WATER SUPPLY.

During the past year 8 samples from the water boats were submitted to the Municipal Bacteriologist; the results of the examinations are summarised in the following table:—

1939.

Source.	Number of Samples.	Class 1.	Class 2.	Class 3.	Class 4.
Water Boats	8	7	...	1	...
Hydrants	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	8	7	...	1	...

CLASS 1.—A water containing no B. Coli in 100 cc. of water. SATISFACTORY.

CLASS 2.—B. Coli test positive in 100 cc. negative in 10 cc.... DOUBTFUL.

CLASS 3.—B. Coli test positive in 10 cc. negative in 1 cc UNSATISFACTORY.

CLASS 4.—B. Coli test positive in 1 cc. or less BAD.

Article 16 (Port Sanitary Regulations), 1933.

Considerable difficulty has been experienced during the past year in applying the provisions of Article 16, relating to unauthorised persons boarding vessels before they are free from control under the above-mentioned Regulations. After several warnings, Police Court proceedings were taken in one case which the magistrates dismissed on payment of costs.

TABLE C.

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

DISEASE.	No. of cases during 1939.		No. of Vessels concerned.
	Passengers	Crew.	
Chicken Pox.....
Continued Fever..
Diphtheria.....
Dysentery.....
Erysipelas.....
Malaria.....	...	1	1
Measles.....	...	1	1
Pneumonia.....	...	3	3
Relapsing Fever...
Scarlet Fever.....
Smallpox.....
Tuberculosis.....
Typhoid Fever....
Typhus Fever.....
TOTAL.....	...	5	5

PNEUMONIA.

"ASK" S.S., from Kopervik.

Arrived 26th January and reported "All well." On 28th January the cook was medically examined by a doctor who made arrangements for his removal to the Municipal Hospital for observation. On the 30th January the case was notified as Acute Primary Lobar Pneumonia.

"THALA" S.S., from La Goulette via Tees.

Arrived 1st November and reported "All well." On the 7th November a fireman member of the crew accidentally fell into the dock. After being rescued the patient was immediately removed to the Royal Infirmary where he subsequently died.

"PULBOROUGH" S.S., from Shoreham.

Arrived 21st December and reported a seaman ill. Medical assistance was procured and the case, which was notified as Pleuro Pneumonia, was removed to the Municipal Hospital for treatment.

MALARIA.

"MENTOR" S.S., from Piræus via Rotterdam.

Arrived 25th September and reported a fireman suffering from Malaria. Medical attention was provided and the patient treated on board.

MEASLES.

"GRENAA" S.S., from Gothenburg.

Arrived p.m. tide 17th November when the Master reported, through the Boarding Officer of Customs, that a case of German Measles existed on board. Owing to the black out conditions it was impossible to board the vessel at the buoys until the following morning when your Medical Officer of Health examined the patient and confirmed the Master's diagnosis. The case was forthwith removed to the Borough Infectious Diseases Hospital for treatment together with his effects, and the quarters on board which had been occupied by the patient were disinfected.

TABLE D.

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the
Voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

DISEASE.	No. of Cases during 1939.		No. of Vessels concerned.
	Passengers	Crew.	
Chicken Pox.....
Continued Fever..
Diphtheria.....
Dysentery.....
Erysipelas.....
Malaria.....
Measles.....
Pneumonia.....
Relapsing Fever...
Scarlet Fever.....
Smallpox.....
Tuberculosis.....	...	1	1
Typhoid Fever.....	...	1	1
Typhus Fever.....
TOTAL.....	...	2	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

"OILTRADER" S.S., from Houston—London.

Arrived 26th May and reported the removal to hospital at London on the 22nd May of a Chinese seaman, aged 32 years, suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Cleansing, disinfection and re-painting of ship's hospital carried out under supervision of ship's officers.

TYPHOID FEVER.

"USKMOUTH" S.S., from Nemours, Granton, Grangemouth.

Arrived 10th November and reported that the Japanese donkeyman, aged 44 years, had been removed to hospital for observation at Granton on the 30th October, and his subsequent death on the 7th November. Disinfection of the patient's quarters on board was carried out at Granton as a precautionary measure. On the 12th November a letter was received from the Medical Officer of Health at Edinburgh that the cause of death was Typhoid Fever. Further cleansing and disinfection of the infected quarters on the ship was carried out at this port.

OTHER CASES OF SICKNESS, ETC., INVESTIGATED.

In addition to the cases of infectious diseases tabulated, 93 cases of non-infectious sickness, etc., occurring during the voyage or on arrival and during stay in Port, were investigated by the Port Health Inspectors. These included 48 cases of non-infectious sickness, 35 cases of injuries, 9 cases of venereal disease, and 1 death from drowning.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Number of Seaman treated at the V.D. Clinic during 1939 :—

British	Total	Foreign	Total
Syphilis	10	Syphilis	18
Soft Chancre...	1	Soft Chancre...	2
Syph. & Gono.	3	Syph. & Gono.	...
Gonorrhœa.....	39	Gonorrhœa.....	21
Non-Venereal Disease ...	24	Non-Venereal Disease ...	5
TOTAL.....	77	TOTAL.....	46

PARROTS (PROHIBITION OF IMPORT) REGULATIONS, 1930.

3 budgerigars came under observation during the past year, in all cases written undertakings that the birds would not be landed were received from the owners.

DANGEROUS DRUGS (No. 3) REGULATIONS, 1923.

No application for a Certificate to procure drugs under the provisions of the above-named Regulations was granted during the past year.

IV. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

764 vessels have been searched for rats and their Deratisation Certificates examined during the past year, compared with 824 for the corresponding period of 1938. Rat destruction was carried out on board 34 vessels as against 27 vessels in 1938, resulting in the destruction of 751 rats compared with 741 for the preceding year. 341 rats were destroyed, principally by trapping, at warehouses and wharves on the river and docks, compared with 179 for 1938, making a total of 1,092 for 1939, as compared with 920 for the previous year.

In addition 3,567 poison baits, compared with 2,618 for the preceding year, were laid at various points where trapping was considered futile, the result of which cannot be properly estimated. 6 rats have been submitted for bacteriological examination during the past year, none of which showed any evidence of *B. Pestis*.

The total number of visits paid to vessels and premises during 1939, for the purpose of rat destruction, was 2,335, as compared with 2,520 for 1938.

RAT PROOFING.

The warehouses at the Docks and on the River continue to be well maintained as regards protection from rats.

It is interesting to note that since the Port of Sunderland was approved by the Ministry of Health, in January, 1929, for the issue of "Deratisation" and Deratisation "Exemption" Certificates in accordance with the provisions of Article 28 of the International Sanitary Convention of Paris, 1926:—1,445 such Certificates have been issued for which fees amounting to the sum of £2,849 2s. 6d. have been collected.

RATS DESTROYED DURING 1939.

TABLE E.

(1) On Vessels.

NUMBER OF RATS.	...	...	...	751
" EXAMINED	...	...	...	6
INFECTED WITH PLAGUE	...	...	...	NIL

TABLE F.

(2) In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.

NUMBER OF RATS	...	...	...	341
" EXAMINED	...	...	...	NIL
INFECTED WITH PLAGUE	...	...	...	NIL

TABLE G.
Measures of Rat Destruction on Vessels from Plague infected ports arriving in the
Port during the year.

Total Num- ber of such Vessels Arriving.	Number of such Vessels Fumigated by S.O ₂ .	Number of Rats Killed.	Number of such Vessels Fumigated by H.C.N.	Number of Rats Killed.	Number of such Vessels on which Trapping, Poisoning, etc., were Employed.	Number of Rats Killed.	Number of such Vessels on which measures of Rat de- struction were not carried out
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
*97	3	44	...	...	4	111	90

* Including Vessels known to have called at Infected Ports during the Voyage.

TABLE H.*
“ Deratisation ” Certificates and Deratisation “ Exemption ” Certificates issued during the year.

	No. of Ships.	No. of Deratisation Certificates Issued.					No. of Deratisa- tion Ex- emption Certificates Issued.	Total Certificates Issued.
		After Fumigation with		After Trapping, Poisoning, Etc.	TOTAL.			
		H.C.N.	Sulphur.			H.C.N. & Sulphur.		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
TOTALS	112	Nil.	11	1	Nil.	12	100	112

* Applicable only to those ports approved by The Ministry of Health for the issue of “Deratisation” Certificates and Deratisation “Exemption” Certificates in accordance with the provisions of Article 28 of the International Sanitary Convention, 1926. (Form Port II).

V. HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

TABLE J.

Classification of Nuisances.

Nationality of Vessel	Number inspected during 1939	Defects of Original Construction	Structural defects through wear and tear	Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health
British... ..	1700	...	216	150
Other Nations	579	...	18	29

The above table is a classification of the nuisances and defects found to exist on board the 2,279 vessels inspected during the past year. Of this number 121 or 5.3% were found to have one or more nuisances or sanitary defects, composed for the most part of dirty or verminous quarters, foul w.c's, bilges, peak and ballast tanks, defective port lights, defective stoves and fittings, leaky decks, defective w.c's, doors, etc. With the exception of 2 vessels which left the Port before the necessary work was completed, all the nuisances and defects were remedied, suggestive that the work is carried out with a minimum of friction. On the 2,279 vessels inspected there were 33,981 men living, being an average of 14.9 men per vessel.

VI. FOOD INSPECTION.

The Public Health (Imported Foods) Regulations, 1937, The Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, The Public Health (Preservatives, &c., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1939, and The Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1934.

In accordance with the powers contained in these Regulations relating to the inspection of Foods arriving from foreign and home ports, the provisions have been carried out in so far as they concern the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937. With regard to the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1939, it has not been found necessary to take any action. Samples are regularly taken by the examining Officer of Customs in compliance with the above-named Regulations.

60 visits have been paid to wharves and warehouses on the River and at the Docks for the purpose of inspecting consignments of foodstuffs landed from vessels.

It has not been found necessary during the past year to condemn any foodstuffs, neither has it been found necessary to submit any samples of food to the Bacteriologist or Public Analyst for examination or analysis. 834 lbs. of meat, including beef, mutton, pork and offal (ex ships' stores) were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed as being unfit for human food.

SHELL FISH.

The Public Health (Shell Fish) Regulations, 1934, came into operation on January 1st, 1935. The Regulations refer to the gathering and selling for human consumption of shell fish which may be infected. There are no layings, private or public, within the jurisdiction of this Authority.



